Appl. No. 09/966,064
Amdt. dated October 12, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application is related to application Serial No. 09/965,998——— (Att'y. Docket No. 1662-41000) entitled "Semi-Persistent, Relocatable RAM-Based Virtual Floppy Disk for Providing Operating System Drivers," filed concurrently herewith.

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] The present invention relates generally to loading operating systems on computer or server systems. More particularly, the preferred embodiments of the present invention are directed to insuring ensuring the availability of operating system drivers during the operating system installation process. More particularly still, the preferred embodiments of the present invention are directed to storing operating system drivers in unreserved ROM and making those drivers available during the installation of the operating system.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] Inasmuch as computer system 100 is preferably a server system, the computer system 100 may not have a dedicated display device. If the computer system did have has a dedicated display device, such a system could be implemented by coupling a video driver card to the host bridge 14 by way of an Advanced Graphics Port bus or other suitable type of bus. Alternatively, the video driver card could couple to the primary expansion bus 18 or one of the secondary expansion buses, for example, the PCI bus 20. If the computer system had has a dedicated display device, the video driver or graphic controller would couple to a display device. That display may comprise any suitable electronic display device upon which any image or text can be represented.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] While there may be many ways to make the particular operating system drivers available during the operating system installation process, in the preferred embodiments, those drivers are made available to the user and to the operating

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system installation procedure by having them reside on a virtual floppy drive or virtual disk drive. More particular, in the preferred embodiment, the Interrupt 13h BIOS calls for performing disk drive activities are preferably implemented such that the operating system drivers (either all of them or just the appropriate drivers for the particular operating system) stored on the ROM 26 appear to reside on a disk drive. Because the files are not actually stored on a floppy disk, this is known as creating a virtual drive. As mentioned above, the user preferably selects in a BIOS setup screen which operating system is to be installed on the computer system, and based on that selection, preferably only the drivers appropriate for the selected operating system are made available in this virtual drive method. ~~One of ordinary skill in the art is familiar with Interrupt 13h BIOS calls, how to implement them, and now understanding how to provide drivers in this way, could modify the standard programs to provide this virtual drive feature.~~

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] More particularly still, in the preferred embodiment, selecting a particular operating system to be installed preferably sets an environment variable in a non-volatile memory. This non-volatile memory could be non-volatile RAM (NVRAM), or may be written directly to the ROM 26, which in the preferred embodiment is electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM). Regardless of the location of the environment variables, by selecting an operating system, the environment variables preferably point to a floppy image having operating system drivers appropriate for that operating system. During the installation process, before the operating system is installed, disk services are provided by the BIOS. Thus, during installation, the Interrupt 13h services preferably are adapted to show the appropriate operating system drivers, indicated by the environment variables, as residing on a disk drive. Thus, drivers needed for correct setup during the operating system installation process are then available as if they had been copied to a floppy and inserted in a disk drive in the system. Using the preferred embodiment alone, it is then possible to provide the operating system drivers during the operation system installation process by informing the installation program of the need to use drivers different than those provided with

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the operating system, and pointing that operating system software to the virtual drive. However, now understanding how to make available software drivers in the manner of the preferred embodiment, one of ordinary skill in the art could easily modify the installation program to automatically search for and use drivers resident on virtual drives with little or not no user input.